

## CONFERENCE REPORT

## The Association of Dental Anaesthetists Conference 2017

The Association of Dental Anaesthetists Conference 2017 was held in London. The theme concentrated on alternative therapies, safety and regulations. These topics were explored by a number of well-regarded speakers including oral surgeons, special care and paediatric dentists.

The conference was opened by Iain Macleod, a retired consultant in radiography, and Sally Hanks, a professor in clinical dental education. They explored how we as clinicians can become placebo practitioners through having excellent consultation and observation skills. Professor Hanks introduced the audience to hypnotic distraction therapies for the management of patients' anxiety.

Clare Lawrence, a specialist dental surgeon, emphasised the medico-legal aspects of sedation and general anaesthesia by ensuring consent is voluntary, informed and the patient has capacity. She also raised important questions about the credibility of written consent. She encouraged clinicians to invite questions during patient consultations and document any questions asked. Also it was highlighted that ultimately the dentist has overall responsibility for patients having dental treatment under general anaesthesia.

Talks covered the topic 'safety in surgery' both for local anaesthesia and general anaesthesia; these lectures proved beneficial

to all. Kathryn Taylor, an honorary oral surgeon, highlighted the importance of having safety briefings, group huddles and procedural verifications prior to treatment under general anaesthesia. She also emphasised the importance of preventing 'never events' by anticipating potential risks. For example, if a clinician repositions when extracting a tooth, they should recheck and reaffirm the tooth to be extracted prior to placing the forceps. Additionally paediatric specialist Clare Ledingham updated the delegates on the new SDCEP guidelines on conscious sedation. A CQC lecture presented by John Milne, a Senior National Dental Advisor, was a gentle reminder to ensure clinicians and practices are safe, effective, caring, responsive and well led.

Overall this year's conference was very informative and thought provoking. Details of upcoming meetings can be found on the ADA website: <http://dentalanaesthesia.org.uk/meetings/>.

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